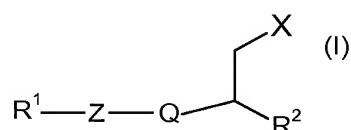


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

R¹ is optionally substituted -C₄₋₁₂ alkyl, -C₂₋₁₀alkylcycloalkyl, C₂₋₆alkylheterocycloalkyl, -C₂₋₆alkylaryl, optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl with the proviso that R² is not pyridinyl;

Z is a bond, CH₂, O, S, SO, SO₂, NR⁴, OCR⁴R⁵ or CR⁴R⁵O; or Z, R¹ and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

Q is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring;

X is COR³;

R² is CONH₂, CO₂H, CO₂R⁷, SO₂R⁷ or SO₂NR⁸R⁹,

provided that R² is not CO₂R⁷, when X is CONH₂;

R³ is OR⁶ or NR⁸R⁹;

R⁴ and R⁵ each independently is H, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkylaryl;

~~R⁶ is H or C₄₋₆ alkyl;~~

~~R⁷ is C₄₋₆ alkyl; and~~

~~R⁸ and R⁹ each independently is H or C₄₋₆ alkyl; or R⁸ and R⁹ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which may optionally include 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from O, S and N; or~~

physiologically functional derivatives thereof,

provided that formula (I) compounds are not:

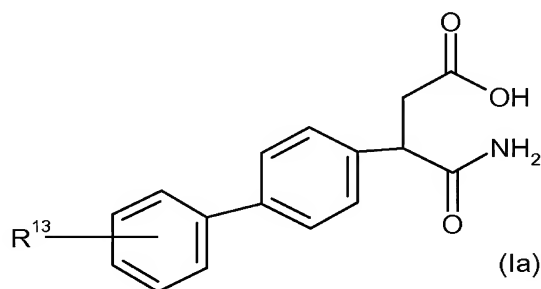
[3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid and 3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid diethyl ether;

butanedioic acid [3-methoxy-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; or

butanedioic acid [4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; and

further provided that when R^1 is C_{4-12} alkyl, Z is other than a bond, O or CH_2 , or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X is CO_2H and R^2 represents $CONH_2$.
3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Q is an unsubstituted phenyl.
4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Z represents a bond or O.
5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 of formula (Ia):

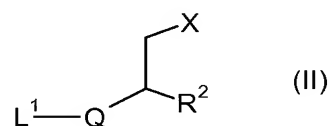


wherein R^{13} is H, halo, CF_3 , $-OCF_3$, cyano, nitro, OR^{14} , SR^{15} or COR^{16} ; and R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} independently are H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkylaryl; or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

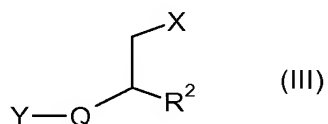
10. **(Previously Presented)** A process for preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, wherein the process comprises:

(A) preparing a compound of formula (I)₁ wherein Z is a bond and R¹ is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, by reacting a compound of formula (II):



wherein R², Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and L¹ is a leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R¹; or

(B) (i) preparing a compound of formula (I)₁ wherein Z is O, S, SO, SO₂, NR⁴ or OCR⁴R⁵, by reacting a compound of formula (III):



wherein R², Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and Y is OH, SH, NHR⁴ or HOOCR⁴R⁵, with a compound of formula (IV):



wherein R¹ is defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L² represents a leaving group; and

(ii) wherein Y is -SH, optionally followed by oxidizing the Y group to the corresponding SO or SO₂ group as required; or

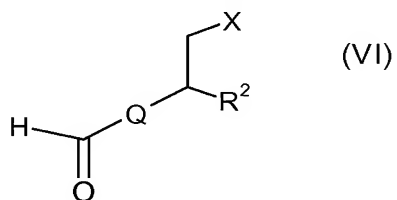
(C) preparing a compound of formula (I)₁ wherein Z is -CR⁴R⁵O-, by reacting a compound of formula (III), wherein Y is -OH, with a compound of formula (V):



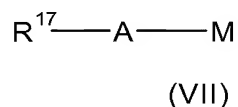
wherein R^1 , R^4 , R^5 are defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L^3 represents a leaving group; or

(D) preparing a compound of formula (I)_a wherein Z is CH_2 and R^1 is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, by reacting

(i) a compound of formula (VI):



wherein Q, X and R^2 are as defined above, with an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl nucleophile, which is a compound of formula (VII):



wherein A is a 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, R^{17} is H or one or more substituents and M is a metal and

(ii) reducing and eliminating a resultant or product alcohol formed from step (i); and,

(E) optionally deprotecting compounds of formula (I) with a protecting group.